

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
August 21, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Rocky Hill was called to order by Mayor George Morren at 7:30 PM. Members of the Princeton Chapter of the American Taekwondo Academy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silent meditation in memory of wife of Doug Campbell, the Borough's Fire Prevention Officer. Mayor Morren stated that the meeting has been properly advertised in the December 17, 2005, issue of the Somerset Messenger Gazette and is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Mr. Richard Batchelder-present, Mr. Brian Griner-present, Mr. Edward Zimmerman-present.
Late Attendance – Ms. Eileen Uhrik (7:35 PM).

Absent: Mr. Brad Merritt, Mr. Jared Witt

Also present: Deputy Borough Clerk Raymond Whitlock, Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, Borough Engineer William Tanner.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO THE MAYOR

Mayor Morren was presented with a plaque and an honorary third degree black belt by Michele Zimmerman, Jodi Zimmerman, and Victoria Plummer on behalf of the Princeton chapter of the American Taekwondo Academy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Morren expressed apology for inadvertently failing to open the floor to the public during the last meeting at which time the Rocky Hill Classic Bike Race was discussed. Mayor Morren stated that public comments will be received during future discussions regarding this event.

Hearing no comments/questions, the floor was closed to the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Minutes – July 17, 2006 - Motion to approve the minutes was made by Zimmerman with a second by Griner. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Report dated August 18, 2006, for July 2006 was received and distributed (copy of file in the Borough Clerk's Office). The following items were discussed:

County Park Project – Engineer Tanner noted that Phase I of the project should be completed within a few weeks pending the completion of a few items. The issue of erosion between the parking lot and the office park will be addressed by means of installation of a speed hump at the park entrance. The funds for this project are already allotted only requiring a transfer of funds within the park budget. In regard to the Phase II aspect of the project, recommendation was made by Engineer Tanner to treat the parking lot and gravel driveway with a chemical treatment at this time for weed control. It was noted that the County Sheriff's crew did provide services, however, additional work will be needed. Engineer Tanner was authorized to confer with the County for a referral for the treatment. Bid requests for the restroom shelter have been requested for the second time; bids for the installation of playground equipment were received and an award is to be made by Montgomery Township. In regard to the miscellaneous remaining items (benches, trash cans, etc.) no bids were received to date. The Park Committee is exploring the option of using the Montgomery Township Public Works Department to do some of the installations and having a fence contractor take care of others. In regard to the recommendation made previously by Council for the installation of a split rail fence, Montgomery Township approved this expenditure also in the amount of \$650.00. It was noted that the fence post/gate on Princeton Ave. is still in need of repair and limbs hanging over the path need to be cut back.

Engineer Tanner advised that quotes have been received for lawn mowing services for the Park for the remainder of the year. Resolution authorizing the award of the contract to The Brickman Group based on Engineer Tanner's recommendation was read into the record. Said approval authorizes 10 mowings at \$685.00 per mowing (20% of total to be borne by the Borough/80% by the Township) for a total not to exceed \$10,000. Motion to approve the award and resolution was made by Batchelder with a second by Griner contingent upon receipt of certification of funds from the Borough's CFO. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

In regard to concerns raised about the weeds on Princeton and Montgomery Avenues, Engineer Tanner will ascertain whether the Sheriff's workers will be available for these areas. Engineer Tanner will also follow up with the County on the Borough's previous request for low maintenance vegetation plantings and follow-up cutting in front of the Scassera property.

Public Comments/Questions:

Peggy Harris, former Councilwoman, advised that the County had previously agreed to continue cutting in that area and urged contact be made with them regarding this issue.

Peg Merritt, resident, advised that the forms are still in the area where the sidewalk was repaired in front of the firehouse. Engineer Tanner will advise the County.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS TO BE PAID

Motion to approve the bill list as presented was made by Batchelder with a second by Griner. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (Appendix 1)

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Motion to accept the following reports as presented was made by Zimmerman with a second by Griner. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Mayor Morren noted the need for a Court session in August and the increased work load by Court personnel. The need for possible increased budgeting in the upcoming year will need to be further considered.

Tax Collector's Report – July 2006
Treasurer's Report – None received
Court Administrator's Report – July 2006

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration and Records – No report at this time.

Building & Grounds – Mr. Zimmerman advised that due to the establishment of the substation, the Borough's archived records have been relocated to the small, conference room. Therefore, meetings should not be held in that room without the presence of the Clerk and/or Deputy Clerk. The substation renovations have been completed with the exception of a NJSP sign which will be provided by them. The interior door locks in the building have been changed as previously approved. Keys can be obtained from the Borough Clerk. Mr. Zimmermann noted vandalism to the Borough property, i.e. cones missing, trash bins being moved, and writing on the wall in the stairwell. Christopher Solazzo will be volunteering his time to paint the front door of Borough Hall. The paint for the project has been donated by the Hallmans. Mr. Zimmerman advised the last Park Night was held on August 4th. Mr. Batchelder questioned the process for donating funds for the Park Night events whereas his attempts to donate have been unsuccessful. Courtney White will be requested to make contact with Mr. Batchelder.

Finance & Insurance – Budget balances were distributed. Mr. Batchelder apprised Mayor and Council of the process to be followed for the award of contracts/services by the Borough. A certification of funds is required by the CFO prior to the award of contracts and a resolution of approval will need to be adopted as well. Request was made that the Clerk be provided in advance of meetings of anticipated awards in order that a certification of funds may be obtained from the CFO prior to the meetings.

Public Safety & Emergency Services - Mr. Griner reported that the constables have been checking for dog/cat licenses throughout the Borough.

Streets & Roads – Ms. Uhrig reported that the pothole at Rt. 518 and Crescent Ave. has been repaired.

Water, Sewer & Environmental Protection – Mayor Morren advised that a meeting was held with representatives from Montgomery Twp. regarding the sewer contract and a new contract is being drawn up.

Council Representative to Planning Board – It was noted that Planner Susan Kimball appeared before the Board with a presentation on COAH requirements as presented to the Borough Council.

Council Representative to School Board – No report at this time.

Council Representative to Board of Health – No report at this time.

Zoning Official – Report dated July 2006 from Zoning Official Raffaelli was received and distributed. Mr. Raffaelli reported on real estate signs that have been removed, unlicensed contracting work that he is following up on, and the increased number of satellite dishes which need approval by the Planning Board. In regard to issues regarding newspaper vending machines, it was noted that the constables are responsible for enforcement of same.

Grants Official – Mr. Griner reported on the Committee's continued progress in obtaining grants.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Resolution of Approval – Establishment of Housing Trust Fund Account – Resolution authorizing the Borough of Rocky Hill Chief Financial Officer to open a Housing Trust Fund Account with Amboy National Bank was presented. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Zimmerman with a second by Griner. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (Appendix 2)

Resolution of Approval – Request for Water Line Easement through Van Horne Park – Resolution authorizing the Borough of Rocky Hill to request that the Somerset County Park Commission seek to obtain permission from the State House Commission for a water line easement through Van Horne Park was presented. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Batchelder with a second by Griner. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (Appendix 3)

ORDINANCE #5, 2006 – AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ALONG PRINCETON AVENUE IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL, APPROPRIATING \$62,000 THEREFOR - Introduction

Ordinance #5, 2006, as filed in the Borough Clerk's Office was read by title. Motion to introduce was made by Batchelder with a second by Zimmerman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Public hearing scheduled for September 18, 2006, in the Borough Hall.

Resolution of Approval – Amendment to 2006 Capital Budget – Resolution authorizing amendment to the capital budget for improvements to Princeton Avenue in the amount of \$62,000.00 was presented. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Batchelder with a second by Zimmerman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (Appendix 4)

ORDINANCE #6, 2006 – ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ORDINANCE OF ROCKY HILL BOROUGH BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE, ARTICLE 11, "WELL HEAD PROTECTION" - Introduction

Ordinance #6, 2006, as filed in the Borough Clerk's Office was read by title. It was noted that this ordinance has received approval from the DEP with recommended language changes which have been addressed accordingly. Motion to introduce was made by Zimmerman with a second by Batchelder. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Public hearing scheduled for September 18, 2006, in the Borough Hall.

ORDINANCE #7, 2006 – ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE LICENSING OF TOWING OPERATORS IN THE BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL AND TOWING AND STORAGE FEES - Introduction

Ordinance #7, 2006, as filed in the Borough Clerk's Office was read by title. Mayor Morren provided an overview of the ordinance to the public. The following recommended changes by Mayor and Council are to be made: explanation statement to read as follows: "...ordinance **providing** for the licensing..."; references to Clerk to be amended to read, "Rocky Hill Borough Clerk". Attorney Cruz addressed concerns raised regarding the fees as they relate to other municipalities. Motion to introduce was made by Zimmerman with a second by Griner. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Public hearing scheduled for September 18, 2006, in the Borough Hall.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications as listed on the agenda were discussed, disseminated and/or ordered filed.

- Letter dated August 5, 2006, from Alan Delahoy of 33 Washington St., RE: Encroachment of Bamboo from 37 Washington St. onto his property was received. It was agreed that no action by Council is warranted and said decision will be related by Mayor Morren.
- Letter was received from Mr. and Mrs. Castenada of Montgomery Ave., Re: location of Shed on Borough Hall grounds. It was noted that all zoning and construction requirements have been met by the Borough. Mayor Morren will respond to this complaint.
- Letter dated 7/28/06 from Zoning Officer Raffaelli, Re: Post Office Banner was received along with Communication from Planning Board Attorney Valerie Bollheimer.
- Notification of mandatory training for Planning Board members was received from Attorney Cruz and referred to the Planning Board.
- Mayor Morren advised of letter received from the AOC outlining compliance issues which was reviewed. Emergency Response Plan to be addressed by Councilmen Griner and Zimmerman.
- Correspondence received by Mayor Morren regarding ways of reducing local taxes by means of a Uniform School Tax was referred to School Board President Randi Zimmerman.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COAH Requirements – Correspondence received August 11, 2006, from Planner Kimball, Re: Approach to Fair Share Obligation was received and distributed.

Possible Replacement of Copy Machine/Fax Machine – Resolution of Approval for Award of State Contract - Quotes were received and distributed from Xerox and Ikon Office Solutions for the replacement of the Borough's photocopier. Councilman Batchelder noted that the lease on the existing equipment has expired with no residual due. Motion was made by Batchelder with a second by Griner for the approval of the award to Ikon Office Solutions via state contract #A-64039 for a lease program of 48 months at \$116.35/month as outlined in the resolution of approval with accompanying certification of funds from CFO Bobal. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (Appendix 5).

NEW BUSINESS:

Grounds Maintenance Proposal – Borough Hall/Crescent Park – Resolution of Approval – Councilman Zimmerman advised that quotes were solicited for grounds maintenance, i.e. trimming of bushes for the Borough Hall and Crescent Point Park. One quote was received from GreenYard Landscapes at a price of \$560.00 for a one time service. The Borough Clerk noted that communication has been received from the CFO certifying the availability of funds. Motion was made by Zimmerman with a second by Griner for approval of the award to GreenYard Landscapes and resolution authorizing same. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (Appendix 6).

Scheduling of Fall Clean-Up – The Borough Clerk was directed to contact Raritan Valley Disposal and request availability for clean up on either Monday, October 9th or Monday, October 16, 2006.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peggy Harris expressed concern with overgrown weeds in the playground area of Panicaro Park. It was noted that weeding had been done previously in this area. Councilman Zimmerman will contact Engineer Tanner about having the Sheriff's Department workers return. In regard to questioning about whether monthly reports will be provided regarding the Rocky Hill Classic Bike Race, Ms. Harris was advised that the subcommittee will give periodic updates on the progress of the event. Ms. Harris expressed her opinion that the Borough should not incur any costs for this event. Ms. Harris was advised that, if any, the costs should be minimal but this issue will be further addressed in the upcoming year.

Larry Raffaelli, Zoning Officer, advised that the Borough's property maintenance code is in need of updating.

Peg Merritt, resident, expressed thanks to the Shade Tree Commission for their attention to the recent tree trimming being done by PSE&G.

Hearing no other comments/questions, the floor was closed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 PM was made by Batchelder with a second by Griner. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths, RMC
Borough Clerk